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The Highlander

Thursday **February 4, 2021** | Issue 476

INSIDE: HIGHLANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL CANCELLED PAGE 17

FREE



Mason, left, and brother, Austin Latanville, try their luck at ice fishing on a school professional development day Feb. 2 in Algonquin Highlands. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Hyland Crest faces COVID outbreak

By Lisa Gervais

Bonnie Berry was “very frightened” when she got a call that two essential visitors to Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden had tested positive for COVID-19.

The daughter of resident, Bill Prentice, who turns 92 this week, is also head of the family council group at the facility.

“I follow what’s happening in Ontario. It’s scary.” However, she said she feels reassured by how Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), and staff at Hyland Crest, have dealt with the pandemic since day one.

She said she has always been impressed with the protocols to prevent spread of the virus and the “dedicated” staff who have implemented and monitor them.

“We were notified right away. They already had very extensive protocols.” Since the outbreak was declared, she added measures have intensified further.

“It’s a lot of extra work for staff. I can’t say enough about how hard they are working,” Berry added.

In a press release issued Feb. 1, HHHS confirmed the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) had declared a COVID-19 outbreak at the home Jan. 31.

HKPR medical officer of health, Dr. Ian Gemmill, during his weekly media briefing Feb. 3 said although the province defines Hyland Crest as an outbreak, he would describe it as a “situation” distinct from larger spreads in other long-term care homes

Continued ‘Looking’ on page 2

Opioid use a lifelong struggle for woman

HIGHLANDER INVESTIGATES

By Lisa Gervais

‘Anne’ began her lifelong addiction to opioids when she was 15. She was living in York Region when her parents unexpectedly divorced. The devastated teen stayed with her dad and one day found some pills in a kitchen cupboard. She doesn’t know what they were. It could have been painkillers. She took one and it “numbed” all the angst she was feeling at the time.

Anne, a pseudonym, moved to the Norland area 26 years ago and now resides in Minden Hills. She is a 51-year-old mother and grandmother. She sees a local family doctor and takes a medically-prescribed substitute drug to treat her dependency.

She recently shared her story with *The Highlander*.

Following that first painkiller, Anne said she “dabbled,” taking one or two pills out of the bottles she found around the house so no one would notice. She recalled one

of the prescriptions was valium. Then she started going to doctors to get prescriptions.

“One thing led to another. I was on a really slippery slope. Had I have known the road I was going to go down; I never would have.”

She discovered alcohol and noted that when she was drinking, she wanted to take pills. She was raiding the cupboards at home and getting pills from friends. She said all of this happened between the ages of about 15 and 19.

Continued ‘I’ on page 15



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Looking forward to vaccines

Continued from page 1
affecting staff or residents. He said the two essential caregivers who tested positive have no symptoms and are not ill.

"We know in some places that people with no symptoms have been responsible for spreading the virus. So, we cannot take any chances," Gemmill said.

He said testing of residents is done, but the results are not back as of Feb. 3. Testing of staff is underway.

Gemmill also provided a vaccination update. Extendicare Haliburton was the only County home in the district covered by the initial 700-doses received. Gemmill said they hope to receive another shipment by the weekend and if they do, they should meet the new provincial target date of Feb. 10 to vaccinate all long-term care residents.

Gemmill said he did not know why Extendicare specifically received doses first over other County long-term care homes, only that he directed his staff to prioritize based on where they felt vaccinations were most needed.

"We'll get the others done as fast as we can," Gemmill said.

HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer stressed it was essential caregivers, not staff, who tested positive. These are usually family members.

She said as for resident and staff testing, "we will provide information about test results once we have all of them, and families have been notified."

In a Feb. 1 press release, Plummer said, "I would like to commend our team for their swift and comprehensive action in response to the outbreak, and for all the work they have been



A sign at Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden declares a COVID outbreak at the facility. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

doing and continue to do to keep our residents, patients, and clients safe."

The release said HHHS has been vigorously working with Public Health authorities in managing the situation and identifying anyone who may have been exposed to prevent further spread.

They said they've followed stringent infection prevention and control measures in both HHHS Long-Term Care Homes [the other is Highland Wood in Haliburton] since the onset of the pandemic.

These include: ensuring staff work in only one LTC facility; actively screening all staff and essential visitors; conducting regular surveillance testing of all staff and residents; limiting visitors to only those deemed as essential caregivers

who must undergo regular COVID-19 testing; and ensuring adequate supply and proper use of personal protective equipment at all times.

In addition, Plummer said outbreak protocols have been implemented to minimize potential spread at Hyland Crest. This means immediate testing all residents and potentially-exposed individuals; isolating any residents experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms; limiting admissions, readmissions, discharges or transfers at this time.

"We have been preparing for this possibility, knowing that even with the most rigorous infection prevention and control measures in place, COVID-19 is a very contagious virus," Plummer said. (With files from Joseph Quigley.)

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Minden Christmas Hamper Program

The organizers of the MINDEN CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM would like to thank the community for their generous donations of Toys, Gift Cards, Cash and Food. We would also like to thank the work groups and businesses that participated in a work place challenge to collect Toys and Food for the Christmas Hampers. Finally we would like to thank the following local businesses for stepping up to the plate and helping out in many ways. From organizing collection bins/trees, donating needed items, giving cost price on other items, collecting items and delivering them to the Community Center and to storing our Donated Turkeys.

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We cannot list everyone but thank you all for your help. Please support Local businesses during this difficult time as they supported us. Finally, we would like to thank our few volunteers that helped answer the phones, collect, sort, organize and distribute all of our Hampers and Toys. You all worked around the challenges of Covid -19 Pandemic and all the related guidelines for safety and made it work. Thanks again to EVERYONE for helping put a smile on so many faces this difficult Christmas. From the Organizers of the Minden Christmas Hamper Program

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More than 250 people watched a special County council meeting about a draft shoreline bylaw. Photo by Joseph Quigley.

Private firm to juggle shoreline hot potato

By Joseph Quigley
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

County council is changing direction on its shoreline bylaw by hiring a private firm to continue work in response to public outcry.

Council unanimously voted at a special meeting Jan. 27 to put out a request for proposals. The chosen firm will lead further development on the bylaw, including reviewing related science, an environmental scan, exploring municipal comparators and public consultation.

The move comes after weeks of public pushback on the current draft of the shoreline bylaw, which aims to restrict development within 30 metres of shorelines.

Coun. Carol Moffatt said the community is unravelling over the issue and there is a need to rebuild trust.

"That firm would provide the leadership to go around and talk to the various groups and tell us where we are - and maybe aren't - on the mark in regional comparators," Moffatt said.

More than 250 people watched the meeting live. Council discussed how much controversy the bylaw has garnered and the struggles to communicate what it is trying to do.

"We need to be providing really clear answers to the questions we're getting," Moffatt said, adding a comprehensive FAQ is needed. "It feels like a bit of a zombie apocalypse as opposed to people lined up, informed and willing to participate in a process. It just feels like it's all over the map."

"We need to get the public off Facebook and we need to get them into our information portal," she later said.

Council initially debated a motion by deputy warden Patrick Kennedy, backed by Coun. Andrea Roberts, to start a committee

for the bylaw.

Kennedy said he had received a lot of feedback and justified concerns from smart people who also care about lake health. He said the County could explore other ideas beyond a uniform 30-metre setback, such as varying it based on lake capacity and water type.

"I'm not a planner, I'm not a fish biologist, I'm not a lawyer," Kennedy said. "I'm trying to make the best decision and recommendations I can. I don't feel like I have the tools."

The idea got some positive reception, but councillors expressed concerns. Moffatt said given the controversy, picking public members of the committee could prove difficult, as people may perceive council as handpicking members for bad reasons.

"I believe we are so far down the vitriolic blame game that it would be impossible to adequately or usefully represent all interested parties without making it even worse," Moffatt said.

Coun. Brent Devolin said in deciding to hire a firm, they had to be cognizant it likely meant the bylaw would not be in place for the 2021 building season.

"We have less than two years in the term of council. We need to get our business done," Devolin said.

Roberts, who indicated a preference for the committee route, noted the cost comparison.

"There will be a financial implication for this," she said, adding a committee would be less expensive, with locals with expertise willing to contribute for free.

Warden Liz Daniels said people need to have patience with the County taking a step back. "I've said it many times, we want to get this right," she said. "I hope that process will help to do that."

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Carter calls for hiring freeze, cutting roadworks

By Lisa Gervais

Saying he had a “fiduciary responsibility” to taxpayers, Coun. Bob Carter threw a curveball at a Minden Hills budget meeting Jan. 28 - suggesting council not hire additional staff in 2021 and cut roads borrowing in half.

The budget includes the hiring of a deputy chief building official, inspection and bylaw officer, a deputy treasurer, an economic development, destination and marketing officer and a number of positions for the new recreation complex, including a lead hand and casual and student help at a combined cost of \$369,200.

In addition, the third-round draft budget contains borrowing of just over \$5.8 million for roadworks with accompanying annual payments. Carter said he would like that number to be reduced by 50 per cent.

When third round budget talks began, taxpayers were facing a 2.94 per cent levy increase. The township was able to achieve that figure after borrowing \$600,000 from reserves and delaying a number of hires.

However, Carter said he was worried

about the 2021 budget’s impact on 2022 and 2023.

He said if they proceeded with the hires - even post-dated to Sept. 1, 2021, they would have to be annualized in 2022 and going forward, at an annual cost of \$458,000. He wondered if other underutilized staff during COVID-19 could not be redeployed to the recreation complex.

CAO Trisha McKibbin said she would have to provide a follow-up report since that would have service implications for other departments. Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said there could be union issues.

Carter added he is worried about annual loan repayments for roads, too.

“So, if we just approve this 2.94 per cent, in 2022 we will have an additional \$1.16 million dollars into our budget.” In 2023, he said it would be an additional \$1.76 million.

“Those are pretty astronomical numbers ... so I guess for consideration from my perspective is that we really have to review the personnel changes that we were going to make in 2021,” Carter said. He added that even with cutting the roads loan, they

would have an additional \$400,000 to cover in 2022.

“These are going to be really tough choices and I don’t want to be kicking infrastructure down the road to make it somebody else’s problem but we have to face the fact that the decisions we’re making today can really affect what will happen to us next year,” the first-time councillor said.

Carter added he is hopeful of future government infrastructure money “but being able to catch up on our own is probably going to be a very, very difficult situation and tall order.”

Coun. Pam Sayne, agreed with Carter, saying “I’m very concerned that we’re using that debenture as if it’s almost like a credit card you’ll never catch up with, with roads, so I’d like us to revisit our thinking about that debenture.”

Coun. Jean Neville and Schell, however, said the township should not be removing any of the suggested road works from the proposed budget.

Neville said, “We should be taking the opportunity of this low interest rate this



Staffing at the new arena and community centre was on the table at a Jan. 28 budget meeting. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

year for debenture. The roads are just going to increase in cost to repair and get worse ... as well as the interest rate is going to increase. We’re going to get further and further behind with our infrastructure and I don’t think that’s a smart thing to do. I think we should bite the bullet. Do the debenture as it stands and get those roads done.”

Budget talks are continuing.

COUNTY NEWS

Affordable housing dollars

County council approved a slate of incentives to help bring more affordable housing to the Highlands.

They voted Jan. 27 to approve a series of incentives for developments that would help bring 47 affordable housing units to the municipality.

The developments include the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation 30-unit building in Minden and Places for People’s 15-unit project in Haliburton village. Two private individuals – Matt McWilliams in Minden and Helen Bates in Highlands East – were also approved for funding to develop secondary suites, for one affordable unit each.

The projects all met the Affordable Housing Target Program by the County and the City of Kawartha Lakes. The incentives – including government grants and waiving fees – range from a \$391,055 value for the

30-unit structure to \$25,942 for the single unit in Highlands East.

Insurance costs rising

The County’s insurance policy is getting hiked by more than 15 per cent due to an unstable insurance market.

Kyle David of AON Risk Solutions, the County insurer, presented to council on the hardening of the marketplace in recent years, resulting in fewer providers, less competition and increased premiums.

“We’ve seen a fairly drastic spike,” David said. “Post-COVID, once a more normalized state is returned to, there should be more stability in pricing.”

The increase amounts to \$76,982 in the 2021 budget. The municipality is also increasing its deductible from \$50,000 to \$100,000. “It is unfortunate we are seeing some serious changes in our rates,” warden Liz Danielsen said. “But it does appear we have little control over it.”

Community wellbeing plan

County council agreed to spend \$69,750 for a new community wellbeing plan.

The provincially-mandated plan aims to achieve a sustainable community where everyone is safe, with connections to policing, services and health care.

Council went along with the staff recommendations for Toronto-based firm StrategyCorp, which also completed the recent service delivery review. Staff said it received a significant range of pricing options from six different firms – from \$11,200 (USD) to \$86,000 – but StrategyCorp stood out for its overall approach and experience with small municipalities.

The County will cover half the cost while its lower-tier municipalities will pay the rest. The County portion of the funding will use provincial dollars from Cannabis Legalization Implementation Funding.

Supporting youth

The County agreed to provide \$25,000 to youth in need of better online connectivity.

Council approved the funding for Point in Time’s campaign, which aims to raise \$180,000 to provide 150 youth with one-year of connectivity. The campaign seeks to address young people struggling without a good internet connection amidst the pandemic.

“This is definitely outside our normal scope of consideration,” Danielsen said. “It’s obviously a big enough concern that we should do something.”

The council motion notes that the donation is not a core responsibility of its government but recognizes the issue as high-priority during a public health emergency. (County news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter).

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MP holds vote on conversion therapy bill

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale is holding his fourth constituency referendum, this time to decide his vote on criminalizing conversion therapy.

Schmale has sent out a mailer asking constituents to weigh in on Bill C-6, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy). The bill seeks to criminalize the practice of conversion therapy – forced counselling to change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. It passed second reading last fall, with Schmale voting in favour. A third and final reading is to come.

Schmale said he morally opposes the practice. But he said he is fulfilling a 2015 pledge to hold referendums, when time allows, whenever his Conservative party allows a free vote.

“We do need to deal with conversion therapy. It should have been done many, many years ago,” Schmale said. He added the original draft had issues that could have impacted free speech.

“I haven’t met one person who has told me they agree with it. The question was, ‘are you okay with me voting in favour of criminalizing conversation therapy, at the same time, we’re also limiting the ability of free speech?’”

Schmale’s mailer included a caveat,

where he would oppose Bill C-6 regardless of the referendum if it was not amended. Schmale said he was concerned about the bill potentially criminalizing voluntary, good-faith conversations on gender and sexual identity between individuals and teachers, counsellors, faith leaders, medical professionals, family and beyond. Schmale said the bill has since been updated to address that concern and the bill’s text is fine now.

But the referendum has garnered some controversy. Minden Pride has asked people to participate. Chair Allan Guinan said the organization had a positive meeting with Schmale for more clarity, but they questioned the need for a public vote.

“He should be voting in favour of the bill regardless of the outcome,” Guinan said. “From our perspective, more harm is done if the bill is not passed.

“We all feel this is really, ultimately a human rights issue and we know this has been a traumatizing concept to our community,” Guinan later added. “The suggestion LGBTQ+ people need to be changed is quite frankly insulting.”

“These are very difficult conversations. In no way did I mean to damage or retraumatize or hurt people within the community,” Schmale said. “But I also needed to live up to my promise.”

Schmale said he has done that with every free vote so far, except for a bill to amend the national anthem in 2018, which he said



MP Jamie Schmale is holding a constituency referendum on a bill to criminalize conversion therapy. *File photo.*

moved too quickly for a public vote. His most recent referendum was on Bill C-7, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying). He announced Dec. 10 that 65 per cent of respondents voted in favour.

“People do want to have a say,” Schmale said. “Any legislator - regardless of the level - should be doing their job, which is consulting their constituents.”

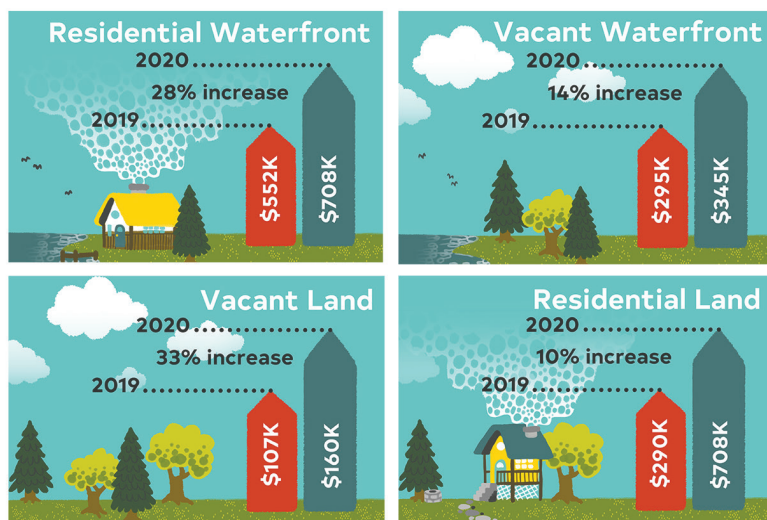
“We recognize we live in a diverse community, so there are going to be people who have opinions on both sides of the argument,” Guinan said. “We’re hopeful people see this as a good decision to be made relative to the human rights of everyone in Canada.”

Instructions on voting in the referendum are available at jamieschmale.ca/billc-6.

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*above is based on the Lakelands Board statistics

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Council says housing hurdles can be overcome

By Lisa Gervais

Despite some planning concerns, Minden Hills councillors expressed unanimous support for an affordable housing project near the intersection of Highway 35 and County Road 21 during a public meeting Jan. 28.

A formal official plan and zoning bylaw amendment came before council. The land is now highway commercial with a service and business area designation.

Bill Switzer has donated the land for 30 units, in 15 duplexes, south of the Minden Legion and overlooking the Gull River. The Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation will manage it.

Town planner, Ian Clendening, said he had a number of issues, including that Minden does not have a lot of serviced lots ideal for commercial development.

"In terms of an opportunity for future larger commercial development, this one, especially its location at County Road 21 and highway frontage, is a very optimal spot for its currently intended commercial use," he told council. He added having housing would now limit opportunities for abutting commercial properties.

He added there is some concern about

parking spilling over into a busy Rotary Park since the applicant had reduced parking to 1.23 spots per unit and there is no off-street parking along the highway.

He said another issue would be traffic and noise from the highway. However, he said there is a proposed noise barrier fence and there's been a noise impact study that will also factor in how the units are built.

Clendening said at a recent open house, there were comments about safety along Highway 35 and the potential for a sidewalk to address accessibility issues, including potentially having a scooter going along the highway.

Finally, he emphasized that flooding is not a concern.

Speaking for the applicant, planner Kent Randall of EcoVue Consulting said it was an exciting and much-needed project for the area. He said the two-bedroom units would cater to seniors, couples and small families.

"We feel it is an appropriate site. I don't share the same concerns as Ian does. I do believe that there are some details that we'll need to hammer out but that can be achieved." He added a lot of the concerns can be dealt with at the site plan approval stage.

He noted The Ministry of Transportation had no issues and they would be using Passivhaus building standards with the developer working with local contractors. He said they'd like to begin in Spring 2021 and finish by Spring 2022.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell said it wasn't the township's first experience of working with the housing corporation. "I have full confidence that this can happen and all the worries that the planning department had, rightly so because that's his job, can be alleviated."

Coun. Pam Sayne commented that Minden Hills needed a policy about integrated housing, and affordable housing.

"So, we're not in these binds of trying to find some place to put this housing. We need to integrate affordable housing with our regular housing plan and work consistently then with groups like [the housing corporation] to be able to do that kind of housing in an overall affect and so we're not putting housing in unexpected places and then try to work around how to blend that in with the rest of our community."

Coun. Bob Carter, who is chair of the housing task force, added, "I firmly believe



There was a public meeting for a proposed affordable housing development in Minden Jan. 28. Pictured is a rendering of the project. *File.*

we need more housing before we need a Walmart. I'm not stressed by any of the challenges and I think we as a community have to work to finding a way to get to 'yes' to making this work."

A staff report will be coming back.

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If you have updates on business hours and operations, please email them to admin@thehighlander.ca. They will be posted free of charge in the paper and online. To save space, please keep messages to 25 words.

If you would like to place a larger ad to let people know you are open (or closed), please email dawn@thehighlander.ca, michele@thehighlander.ca, or rob@thehighlander.ca.

For news and COVID-19 updates check the
TheHighlander.ca

Highlander news



Crews were called to a house fire on Paint Lake Road Jan. 28. Photo by Kyal Smith.

Community responds in wake of Dorset area fire

By Lisa Gervais

The Dorset area has stepped up to help one of its own, Jamie Speirs, who was injured in a house fire on Paint Lake Road Jan. 28.

Speirs was hospitalized after the fire, which caused an estimated \$400,000 in damages and claimed the life of his pet dog.

When crews arrived at the house about 8:30 p.m., it was reported that flames were shooting through the roof and the structure was fully engulfed.

Algonquin Highlands fire chief, Jonathan Wilker, said all three of his stations were involved in the call. The Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department were the primary responders however.

The Ontario Fire Marshal's office was called to investigate.

Almost immediately, Mandy Kerr established a \$50,000 GoFundMe campaign. She said it was to help her cousin, Jamie, recover from losing his home.

"My cousin Jamie has lost everything in an evening house [fire], any help or donation to him would be appreciated at this difficult time," she wrote.

That fundraiser had raised more than \$8000 as of press time Wednesday.

Resident Kyal Smith posted to his

Facebook page that, "Jamie has a long road to recovery ahead of him and will be living with his parents once he gets out of the hospital, so he won't need any furniture for quite a while. All the GoFundMe donations as well as any get-well cards or clothing are greatly appreciated."

He urged people to drop anything off to Peter Meraw at Dorset Pharmasave as well as contact Debbie Gabura, who is coordinating donations.

Gabura wrote she was helping out, "so we can make sure that Jamie gets anything he may require immediately and moving forward." She provided a helpful article (uphelp.org/8-ways-help-after-house-fire) on what to donate, "so he doesn't end up with 15 frying pans and one pair of socks."

In another update, she wrote, "I am starting to receive messages about what people have or want to give which is so amazing and just shows the heart of this community. However, he is still in the hospital so when we hear how he is doing and when he may be released, I will reach out to the donors and set up drop-offs etc. Please think about not just household items but clothing, shoes, boots etcetera. I understand he is very tall and slim and wears a 14 boot or shoe. Thank you so much all of you."

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Common sense to cut the fat

As the County of Haliburton and its four lower-tier municipalities continue to work to finalize their 2021 budgets, it might not be too late for staff and councillors to have a look at a report released Feb. 2 by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and public policy think tank SecondStreet.org.

The two have cautioned townships that they could stall post-COVID-19 economic recovery if property taxes aren't curtailed.

Their report looks at 10 ways municipal governments could reduce spending and property taxes.

Their thinking is straightforward but worth reviewing.

They figure if a business or household is struggling right now, a property tax increase, even a freeze, could really hurt their ability to stay afloat.

SecondStreet.org president, Colin Craig, says just as households and businesses have tightened their belts, there's room for municipalities to do the same.

He says if they curtail their expenses, then they can help save some jobs by reducing the property tax burden on struggling businesses.

Here's some examples that apply locally.

While part-time salaried politicians do not make a lot of money, some executive staff do. They could lead by example by taking pay reductions and curbing discretionary spending.

Every township is recommending hires, some multiple. And the salaries and benefits packages for these new employees far

exceed what most of us are making in the private sector. Townships argue that it is due to the competitive nature of attracting municipal employees to our area. However, they have to always factor in affordability in their decision-making.

In Minden Hills, Coun. Bob Carter has asked for a fourth-round draft budget without the suggested new positions. He also queried moving existing, underutilized employees due to COVID, around. While more difficult due to unions, it's worth exploring.

In addition, townships need to prioritize spending. For example, most of Haliburton County's population would like to see a focus on things such as policing and road repair, not discretionary areas such as the arts right now.

They should also tender more jobs with consideration given to local tradespeople and suppliers.

They need to review township lands and assets and determine opportunities to dispose of unneeded inventory.

Within their own walls, they should create an employee rewards system with incentives for staff to come forward with ideas to reduce costs. And, we don't just mean department heads, but all employees.

They all have a whack of modernization funding so should be exploring opportunities to use new technology to reduce costs.

And, finally, they should spend more time speaking with other municipal governments

about innovative ways to reduce costs instead of devising strategies to raise taxes.

As the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and SecondStreet.org, rightly state in

their report, politicians may try to claim that the cupboards are bare, but there's still fat for many townships to cut.

Having said that, we don't think there is a lot of fat left locally. So, we would encourage the provincial government and Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP and Minister of Infrastructure, Laurie Scott, to also read the report.

Townships have faced unprecedented downloading ever since Mike Harris' so-called Common Sense Revolution. Any taxes saved have had to go to picking up provincial government slack. Many municipalities are at, or beyond, the breaking point. They are finding it harder and harder to keep up with the replacement and maintenance of infrastructure in particular.

It's been suggested that the province designate one per cent of the HST to Ontario's 444 municipalities to help them with crumbling roads, bridges and culverts. It's time for the province to retroactively put the "common sense" into the Common Sense Revolution and do just that.



By Lisa Gervais

COVID CORNER

A cautionary tale

Here are a few excerpts from a man in his late 60s with COVID-19 who wishes to share his story as a cautionary tale:

"COVID positive! Never saw it coming. It hit like a bomb. Days 1-4, I wanted to just die, every single minute, laying on the couch, the bed, or the floor. I have shivered in bed, then soaked it over and over, like a hose was turned on. Nothing has ever hurt like that. Days 5-6 showed flashes of life, only to then knock me back down. I was now so weak, unable to eat or function. When I begged [my wife] to take me to the hospital ... she warmed up the car. She came in to find me crying on the bathroom floor, having just crawled out of the tub. Took all she had to load me into the vehicle. At the hospital ... ending up at the worst possible ward, the fifth floor COVID isolation ward. It's more a prison, and I get that. In nine days I doubt my sleep has totalled four hours. I have watched the big clock go around for 22 hours straight, just staring at it. Today I expect to eat my first solid meals since Dec. 10. Then I'll probably throw it all up. I stare at a machine, watching this one number. I must keep it over 92, all by breathing, and when it drops to 90, 89, 88, I panic, and I fight. Our ward is full, and mostly in total silence. Everyone coping in their own way, mostly just resigned to their fates, good or bad ... out of nowhere, the fears and tears flow,

uncontrollably ... I'm told I might be out soon, to continue healing at home. I could also relapse and be weeks in isolation. One's mind can't handle news like that. It simply can't. We're not soldiers, or tough guys. I'm just a scared old man, missing so, so much, and not sure I'm even gonna' see the sun again, or the family. COVID can jump and end it all in an hour. Have I scared you enough? No? Well, there's the diarrhea, the itchiest rashes that come and go like a sand dune, the number of places they have to use for various injections, and there's more. So please don't just shrug this off. If you think you're tough, maybe your family members aren't, and I doubt you are either. I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemies, and I got a few of those, trust me."

Range of illness severity of patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19):

- Asymptomatic or presymptomatic infection: Individuals who test positive but have no symptoms.
- Mild illness: Individuals with any signs and symptoms (example, fever, cough, sore throat, malaise, headache, muscle pain) without shortness of breath.
- Moderate illness: Individuals with evidence of lung disease on physical exam or Xray and an oxygen saturation over 93 per cent on room air.
- Severe illness: Individuals with more than 30 breaths per minute, oxygen

saturation less than 93 per cent on room air, more than 50 per cent lung infection on scans.

• Critical illness: Individuals with respiratory failure, septic shock, and/or multiple organ dysfunction.

In general, the prevalence of the range of illness severity is:

- Mild to moderate: 81 per cent
- Severe: 14 per cent
- Critical: five per cent

In a Chinese study of more than 44,000 patients, deaths occurred at 49 per cent in the patients with critical disease. Analysis of US COVID-19 cases revealed 19 per cent required hospitalization and six per cent were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU).

How is it spreading now? As of data from Jan. 25, 2021 in Toronto, 56.4 per cent of cases are from close contacts (family, friends and neighbours), and 28.5 per cent from community spread (public transit, grocery stores, etc).

The good news. There have been zero deaths and zero hospitalizations in patients who have been vaccinated.



By Dr. Nell Thomas

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Big thanks to LTC home staff

Dear editor,

At a time when many of us are looking for positive ideas to celebrate, let's look to the great job the staff of long-term care homes in our area have done.

Both of my parents were residents in LTC in the County. It is hard, in a communal setting, to keep infectious illnesses at bay. Residents would normally all eat together in a dining room. I don't know anyone who has 30 or more people to feed every day in their home.

Groups of residents would have participated in activities together. Like us, much of this has been cancelled. Some PSWs and nurses worked in more than one facility, a conduit of carrying the virus. This had to stop. Our LTC homes made changes in these areas and many, many more. Personal Protective Equipment is available and mandatory.

Unfortunately, there are many areas our local long-term care staff have no control over. These include, but are not limited to, understaffing in general (PSWs in particular), sick leave benefits for PSWs and expanded mandated annual inspections. As citizens we need to advocate on behalf of the residents and the staff. Why not start now, while the cracks in the system demonstrated by COVID-19 show us what work has to be done?

The staff of the LTC homes in our area have been there for our moms, dads and grandparents since last March. They've worked hard and kept many of our vulnerable elderly safe. That has helped lessen our anxiety as a community. Let's give them the credit due at this time, as they continue their difficult work. If you know or see a staff member of LTC give them a big thanks or a shout out. They deserve it.

Terry Hartwick
Haliburton-CKL Long-Term Care Coalition

Happy thank you day

Dear editor,

Among our essential frontline workers are a group of people we all depend on but seldom give them the thanks they truly deserve.

How many of us go to the post office on a daily basis to pick up our mail, buy stamps, purchase coins, send parcels, pick up parcels, and return parcels?

Local folk, rural folk, COVID cottage dwellers, vacationers returning home from their trips as well as a number of businesses. Can you imagine the number of parcels and boxes that must be lifted and stored in an area which probably was never intended to accommodate the growing volumes of internet shopping? The postal employees must lift, stack, stock and organize parcels and boxes so they are readily available to you the customer. Did you ever wonder how much the parcels

weigh and what the employee lifts in a day?

Postal employees and carriers have put in some incredible days, especially during the Christmas season all in the face of COVID-19.

It's time to give a shout out to all postal employees. Hip, hip, hooray.

Janet Wilson
Kinmount

Questions for the health unit

Dear editor,

The Hippocratic Oath states "First do no harm." This implies that the cure must never be worse than the disease.

Lockdowns are resulting in delayed surgeries, diagnostic and preventative healthcare treatments. As a result, deaths from cancer and other acute health conditions are expected to grow significantly.

Equally concerning, we are already seeing increases in overdoses, suicides, eating disorders and domestic abuse. The toll on the mental health of our most vulnerable is significant.

Many small businesses have permanently shut down and many jobs have been lost, putting immeasurable stress on the livelihoods of so many.

The highest law in the land, our Charter of Rights, has been severely violated.

As a concerned parent and Canadian citizen, I would like to ask Dr Ian Gemmill:

- Why are the medical officers of health, like Dr Gemmill, not advocating for a modified approach to COVID-19?
- Has the HKPR District Health Unit adopted the revised World Health Organization – Jan/20/2021 guidelines regarding PCR testing and COVID-19 diagnosis to avoid misdiagnosing the virus?
- How will the health unit deal with the backlog of other health services created in 2020 so that more Canadians don't die waiting for diagnosis and treatment?
- When does the Highlands economy reach its breaking point and how does that factor into Dr. Gemmill's approach?
- What steps will the health unit take to increase information transparency so that citizens can make informed decisions?
- What will the health unit do to rectify the current supply shortage of vaccine and ensure County citizens are vaccinated in a timely fashion?

John Galt
Kennis Lake

Questions snowmobiling for recreation

Dear editor,

"I don't think there's a better recreation that offers social distancing than snowmobiling," says the snowmobile club. Give me a break!

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



June Krisko took this photo of a black-capped chickadee during a snowfall in Haliburton.

Firstly, what is recreational about speeding through our beautiful wilderness without being able to really see, smell or hear what nature has so generously given us?

Perhaps you haven't noticed when roaring along, leaving diesel fumes hanging in the air, that there are still people who actually walk as an affordable and healthy way to social distance during this pandemic.

Lynn Deringer
Minden

Opposition to shoreline preservation bylaw

Dear editor,

I wish to, rather late, add my voice to the opposition to this proposed bylaw.

Being a seasonal, but voting, resident, I became aware of the proposed bylaw relatively lately. I've read the proposal and must say that this is overreach by the County.

I read with interest how the usual suspects, EH! and the supposed coalition of property owners have been pushing this agenda.

I have yet to encounter a cottage owner that supports this proposal.

I would urge [County Council] to reject this proposal and would go as far to say that we do not need this as adequate protection

for our shoreline and water quality already exists in the form of existing building codes, tree cutting bylaw, and the somewhat bungled septic inspection program in Dysart (and other townships). We don't need yet more inspectors or encouraging busy-bodies to spy on everything that neighbours may be doing.

There has been a suggestion that the shoreline under consideration should be limited to 10 or 15 meters. I would scrap that idea as well because as surely as the world will go on, in spite of EH!'s hysterics, the exemptions and grandfathering noted in the proposal will just provide a beachhead for future argument and strife.

Also, the cost of hiring additional bylaw inspectors would be better spent on general (OPP) policing or beefing up the building department to ensure that our already adequate, if not onerous, zoning and septic regulations are adhered to.

A lot of us property owners are middle-class, working people that lead very busy lives. We don't have the time and luxury to devote to getting involved in these totally unnecessary controversies. I would urge you to stop this draft altogether and remind you that your decision should represent the will of all your constituents, not just the very vocal minority.

J. Vizl
Kennis Lake

Highlander news

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DYSART ET AL NEWS

Mayor reflects on COVID

Mayor Andrea Roberts reflected on the one-year anniversary of COVID first being discovered in Canada, which occurred Jan. 25.

She addressed the anniversary in her opening remarks at the Jan. 26 council meeting.

"We're all doing our best. I just want to remind people to try and keep their spirits up," Roberts said.

She thanked staff and council for continuing the business of the municipality. She also urged the public to adhere to health rules.

"Keep calm and carry on," she said. "Vaccinations are rolling out."

Rezoning approved

Dysart council approved a rezoning to allow for a new building for a design office in a residential area.

Council unanimously approved a rezoning bylaw on a lot at County Road 21 and Nimigon Lane, changing the zoning from Suburban Residential to Highway Commercial. The rezoning is to allow for ACM Designs to move there from its current location at Industrial Park Road.

The rezoning near the village's Tim Hortons garnered four letters of opposition, with nearby residents expressing concern about noise, light pollution, and increased traffic. During the public meeting, Kathy Prymak said she recently purchased a home in the area, not expecting more business to

be built there.

"It will have a huge impact on the home values," Prymak said. "Very concerning and very disturbing to me."

ACM Designs founder Andria Cowan said she does not want her business to be obtrusive.

"Our goal is for it to look fabulous and complement the community," she said.

Staff said the proposal is consistent with provincial policy and the municipal official plan. Among other requirements, they noted the development must ensure light does not trespass onto neighbouring properties.

Illegal dumping study

Council agreed by a split 4-3 vote to fund a \$1,500 U-Links study into illegal dumping in the municipality.

Environmental manager John Watson reported an anecdotal increase in illegal dumping last summer. He proposed a study by Fleming College's Sustainable Waste Management Program to examine the motivations of people who dump, best practices to address it, and plan a public education campaign.

"We have to know what's driving some of this," Coun. Larry Clarke said. "We have to know what's an effective way to communicate."

Deputy mayor Patrick Kennedy said the issue stems from service levels for an increased population and the dollars would be better spent on advertising.

"There's an increase of household waste and we need to start looking at how we can



Mayor Andrea Roberts urged people to be patient and continue following health protocols at a Jan. 26 council meeting. *File.*

better serve the people here," Kennedy said.

Roberts, Clarke, Coun. John Smith, and Coun. Tammy Donaldson voted in favour while Kennedy, Coun. Walt McKechnie and Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts voted against.

Waste Wizard

Dysart is implementing an app to help people with their waste management.

Council agreed to spend \$1,150 plus HST annually to Algonquin Highlands for the app. It allows people to search how to best dispose of different items and provides landfill updates.

The Waste Wizard app is already used in all other municipalities within the County. (*Dysart et al news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*).

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Minden to build outdoor rink

Minden Hills council voted 4-2 on Feb. 1 to proceed with building an outdoor rink for the remainder of the winter.

The Dawson Hamilton rink is usually erected on the grounds of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre in the fall but it was not done due to COVID-19 this winter.

It was placed on the Feb. 1 council agenda.

Director of public works, Craig Belfry, said the rink boards and trailers to transport them are under a lot of snow. However, he said the public works department has offered to help move them. He said the grounds at the cultural centre would need to be prepped and it would take a week to get the rink up and running. He added he did have some concerns about COVID protocols "but it is doable."

Coun. Bob Carter said they would not be monitoring a rink but could post COVID information.

He suggested they could also skip the boards and just flood a patch of ground. Belfry said that had been discussed and there was a tarp accessible.

Coun. Pam Sayne said, "considering how long this pandemic is going, I think we do need to start to try to get some people

active again and provide some opportunities within the municipality and not just leave people on their own to try to figure out activities."

Coun. Jennifer Hughey was also in favour saying it would prevent families from travelling outside of the municipality to use other rinks during lockdown. Deputy mayor Lisa Schell was also in favour.

Coun. Jean Neville and Coun. Ron Nesbitt voted against. Neville felt getting the arena and community centre up and running should be the priority. She added they were already into February so it's a bit late. She added her grandchildren are getting tons of exercise outside without a rink. She was also worried about COVID protocols and keeping people safe.

New dump cards coming

Minden Hills residents will be getting new dump cards with their interim tax bills.

Council approved going ahead with new cards at their Feb. 1 meeting.

Director of public works, Travis Wilson, said the most recent card issued by the township is grey and dated July 2018.

The card also displays the hours of operation for the Irondale landfill, which is closed.

Wilson said the new cards, which will be colourful, will cost about \$2,000, an amount

already in the proposed 2021 budget.

Wilson added that council will have the opportunity to assign fees in the future for the replacement and purchase of cards, potentially offsetting an annual expense of approximately \$1,300.

Irondale residents to use Glamorgan site

The townships of Minden Hills and Highlands East have finally struck an agreement for Highlands East to allow Minden Hills residents access to the Glamorgan Transfer Station in Gooderham after the closure of the Irondale landfill.

Wilson said the proposal negotiated by staff sees Minden Hills compensate Highlands East \$7,496.40 per year, with CPI increases of 2.5 per cent per year, already included in the proposed 2021 operating budget.

In the first year of the agreement, Minden Hills will cover the \$2,000 cost of the ECA (environmental compliance approval) amendment, also in the recommended 2021 operating budget.

Wilson said waste will be transported using the township's roll-off, resulting in a nominal increase in fuel and maintenance costs. (*Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais*)

Highlander education

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

Updated enrollment numbers

January's enrollment has grown to 16,919 students, from 16,713 in September, trustees of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) heard Jan. 26.

In elementary schools, there was a significant shift from learn-at-home to bricks-and-mortar schooling. At secondary, the numbers indicated a slight shift to learning-at-home.

The board also reported a significant increase in the number of students who have deregistered and are homeschooling under parental supervision.

Director of Education, Wes Hahn said, "The number has normally been around 250 students who for various reasons are not enrolled. This year that number has grown to over 400."

Trustee John Byrne asked why more parents are choosing to leave the board entirely.

"Is it poor work packages or is it lousy internet?" he asked. "Have we asked these parents why they are making these choices?"

"We respect the parent's decisions," Hahn said "but we can certainly survey them again."

Annual report

The TLDSB has tried to focus on student and staff learning and well-being this year, Hahn, said during his annual report.

"This has been a year of resilience and patience and I want to thank students, staff and parents for making this year possible,"



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. *File photo.*

he added.

The director said they'd had to use every skill at their disposal, and worked hard and with passion to deal with COVID-19.

"We spent a lot of time on our back-to-school plan and while it wasn't perfect and made some mistakes, those mistakes were made with good intentions to support staff, student and parents."

He said learning at home was a monumental task and it continues to take a lot of time and effort.

"We are very pleased with the positive parental feedback we are getting about the virtual environment because it was only

made possible by a lot of sleepless nights by staff."

Hahn added doing one credit at a time, known as Octomesters, has been a big success. However, he noted connectivity is still a huge issue.

"There are families still caught without infrastructure available and we are doing everything to help those families. We want to remain positive and hopeful about what we are doing because it is too easy to focus on the negativity and spend time in dark places because of negativity."

Board chair, Bruce Reain, asked Hahn, to congratulate staff, from teachers to

educational assistants and cleaning staff. He said with more than 16,000 students, it is "phenomenal" there have only been two or three cases of COVID reported in board schools.

The board is also in the last year of its 2015-2020 strategic plan, which focuses on student success and achievement, Hahn said the next five-year plan is being developed and he wants as many shareholder groups involved as possible. The document will focus on student achievement, well-being and the pending Equity Inclusion Plan. *(School board news compiled by Kirk Winter.)*

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Highlander health

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES NEWS

Minden ready for COVID patients

The Minden Hospital is now equipped to handle COVID-19 patients.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), CEO Carolyn Plummer, told the board Jan. 28 that the emergency department in Minden is now ready for those patients. Previously, they would be directed to the Haliburton Hospital.

"We have been able to refine some of the workflows and spaces in our Minden emerges department," she said. "Both emerges are now safely able to provide care for all types of patients."

She said HHHS would continue to re-evaluate depending on any change in patient volume.

Plummer also said the province has asked them and other hospitals to prepare to take on transfers from COVID hotspots, if necessary, due to health system capacity issues. She added that has yet to happen and additional beds being built elsewhere should hopefully prevent that from being needed.



Haliburton's COVID-19 assessment centre reported a 3.5 per cent positivity rate between Jan. 11-22. *File photo.*

COVID positivity up

Haliburton's COVID-19 assessment centre is reporting a 3.5 per cent positivity rate between Jan. 11-22.

The assessment centre reported an average of 169 tests completed weekly in that period. The rate is reflective of all the tests done at the facility, including from people who live outside the County. But it does not reflect all tests taken by people within the County, who could also be assessed at hospitals.

Plummer told the board cases have risen across the County, with 22 additional cases since early December. She added the most recent positivity rate released by the health unit is 1.4 per cent.

Vaccines delayed

The district's next shipment of COVID vaccines has been delayed.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District (HKPR) Health Unit reported Jan. 29 that its second shipment, expected Feb. 1, will be delayed until at least Feb. 5. It further said it does not know how many it will get in that shipment and will not get a third until Feb. 22.

"It's unfortunate, but not unexpected," said acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill. "We know all areas of the province are experiencing delays, so all we can do is continue to plan."

The district received its first shipment of 700 vaccines Jan. 25 and began rolling them out into long-term care homes.

Plummer said HHHS is advocating to receive more supply.

"We have been advocating – anywhere and anytime possible – to push hard for this vaccine to arrive in Haliburton as quickly as possible," she said.

Deficit continues

HHHS expects to finish its fiscal year in a deficit position.

Finance committee chair David O'Brien said the deficit stands at \$442,000 as of

the end of November, principally due to pandemic-related costs such as lost revenue and staffing issues.

He said the province has improved its cash flow to HHHS, going from six months behind to three months behind in disbursements for COVID-related expenses. Still, he said although they are confident expenses will get covered, HHHS needs support for lost revenue as well.

"We're going to continue to work, obviously, with our funding partners ... to ensure we get the funding we feel we are missing," he said. (HHHS news compiled by Joseph Quigley, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter).

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Highlander investigates

Opioids not the biggest challenge now

By Lisa Gervais

Stimulant use disorder is the big issue in Haliburton County now, more than opioid use disorder, says Dr. Nell Thomas of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team.

“That’s methamphetamine, crack, cocaine, etcetera,” she said. “Sadly, there’s no treatment for it.”

Opioid use disorder, on the other hand, is treated with substitution therapy such as methadone and suboxone.

Haliburton County residents can be referred to the Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre (OATC), located inside the Haliburton Highland Pharmacy. It’s one of more than about 50 across the province.

OATC CEO Sonya Lockyer said they currently have 50 patients on their program in Haliburton, a number that has been consistent over the years.

She added they are not seeing a lot more people seeking treatment. However, that does not mean that there isn’t untreated opioid use disorder in the community.

“Treatment is the best option for people addicted to opioids, so anything we can do to raise awareness on this topic is welcomed in light of the fentanyl crisis,” she said.

Dr. Thomas said since the air traffic has been all but shut down during COVID, cocaine smuggling was hugely affected and dealers have resorted to manufacturing

stimulant drugs.

“One of the major risks for the stimulant users is the contamination of their product with opioids [narcotics],” she said.

“Because the crack and cocaine users have no tolerance for opioids, when fentanyl is mixed in with cocaine, it is deadly for these opioid naïve individuals. That is also resulting in deaths because of the impure products.”

According to the OATC website, while the goal may be abstinence for some, it focuses on a model of harm reduction.

“Quite simply, it promotes the notion that left untreated, drug addiction causes many harmful outcomes including victimization, overdose, incarceration, relationship and financial struggles and even death.”

The site says harm reduction principles seek to engage individuals in therapy using a non-judgmental approach in an attempt to motivate them to a healthier lifestyle.

In addition to treating opioid addiction (painkillers such as codeine, morphine, oxycodone, heroin, fentanyl, etc), they have taken steps to also address use of other addictive substances by patients (nicotine, cocaine, alcohol, marijuana) as well as offering therapy for some of the consequences of addiction, such as Hepatitis C and HIV care.

“We are proud of what we have accomplished over the last two decades,”



Naloxone is used to treat overdoses. Photo by Jeff Anderson via Flickr.

the website says. “OATC has helped save the lives of many who might have otherwise become victim to untreated addiction. We are grateful to our community supporters as well as the many social agencies that have helped to promote our long-term existence.

“Above all, however, we are especially encouraged by those who have attended our centres and have climbed that often unforgiving mountain, reclaiming the life that was so ruthlessly stolen from them while in the throes of addiction.”

INFORMATION PAGE

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Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca for full posting details and to view the job description.

Masks at Waste Sites

For your health, and the health of other site users, please wear a mask at Minden Hills waste sites when outside your vehicle. Only attend a site if absolutely necessary.

A Message from the Fire Department

If a grease fire starts in your kitchen, don't panic, and **don't use water.**

Instead, smother the flames with a heavy lid or baking sheet, or use baking soda or salt to put out the flames. Be sure to turn off the power to the stove or fryer to prevent the fire from growing. It only takes a few measures to prevent a grease fire.

- **Do not** leave your cooking unattended.
- **Do not** fry frozen food in oil.
- **Do not** rush deep frying, the oil needs to heat slowly.
- Keep flammable items like oven mitts, towels, and curtains away from the cooking area.
- Store heavy lids and cookie sheets near the stove to use in case of a grease fire.

Snow Removal

Pushing snow across roads and streets is not only a safety hazard; it is also against the law. The Ontario Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road.

R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 181

Waste Reduction Tip

Bottled water is 2,000 times more energy intensive to produce than tap water.

Switch to tap water or access the public tap at the Old Minden Fire Hall.

(Virtual) Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

February 11 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

February 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

Highlander investigates



Opioid pill bottles. Flickr

‘I just wish we had more help’

Continues from page 1

Then she got pregnant. She says she didn’t tell anybody but arranged to have the baby adopted. Realizing she had a problem, she said she pulled back. “I tried not to use anything. I had been in bad shape for many years.” She went on to have a son and two daughters and was able to stop for a while “because I was happy and everything was coming together.”

We need a facility people can access easily and freely without prejudice. We need to get rid of the people selling the stuff. We need more and closer resources. And we need things for people who live on backroads. There are lots of women, and single mothers, who are struggling. I just wish that we had more help.

Anne
Former opioid user

Falls apart

Then it began to unravel. The person she was involved with ended up going to jail a couple of times. “It really put me back,” Anne said. She began to use again, describing herself as a functioning addict. She said she was able to get up and do things and “nobody was the wiser.” She said the other difficult thing is she was now “stuck on a back road in the middle of nowhere with three small children and had to go on welfare.” She knew she needed help and reached out to a doctor in Lindsay who prescribed methadone. She described that experience as “horrible, worse than the stuff I was taking.” She said she fell asleep at the wheel after one trip to the clinic and wrote off her truck. She tried to find alternatives more than 10 years ago and said it was by pure luck she came upon the mental health and addictions program at Humber River Hospital. She said she could not find any local resources or what was on offer she could not access due to a lack of transportation, not wanting to discuss her issues remotely over the phone, or fears about small-town gossip. She said Humber had four beds for addicts and the rest were for mental health patients. She said the experience was a “nightmare” but she came out clean. However, that didn’t last either. “I would go and get it to take that feeling away. I don’t know how to

describe it. It was like every morning felt like Groundhog Day.” She said she got pills from doctors but started turning to dealers in the Haliburton area. “Those places ... they still exist to this day, unfortunately. They’ve been around this area for 20-plus years. They don’t do anything to clean the place up.” The second rehab was at CAMH Toronto. Before entering, she said she was on “an absurd number of prescriptions,” 150mg four times a day. Since then, she said she has done quite well, the odd slip-up here and there but feels she has found a very good family doctor in Minden - who does not judge her and takes the time to really listen. She has her replacement drug therapy and regular check-ins.

What’s needed?

Asked what the County needs to do to help people such as her - and she said she can name 100 people who have similar problems - Anne said, “we don’t need a heated arena. “We need a facility people can access easily and freely without prejudice. We need to get rid of the people selling the stuff. We need more and closer resources. And we need things for people who live on backroads. There are lots of women, and single mothers, who are struggling. I just wish that we had more help.”

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Highlander business

WORKING MOMS

There are a small number of stay-at-home moms in Haliburton County who combine raising children and running a business. Carolyn Allder speaks with some of them.

Lowering anxiety one cookie at a time

By Carolyn Allder

Once a week during the holidays, you can usually find Emily Boyko rolling out sugar cookie dough or decorating her cookies late into the night in the kitchen at Abbey Gardens.

The mom of three started her business, Butter Love Baking in 2017, a year after she moved to Minden. Back then, she would bake her cookies at home and sell them at the Haliburton County Farmers Market. But it was the other moms she met at the Minden EarlyOn centre that really made her business take off.

"I've always liked baking cookies," Boyko said. "It ended up being a huge anxiety reducer for me despite the fact it can be really stressful sometimes. I really enjoy the creating part of it."

Turning her passion into a business was a big step, Boyko said.

"It forced me to put myself out there and talk with people. Brought me out of my shell because moving to a new place is hard."

Boyko's oldest children, Nadia and Luke, are homeschooled and in private school twice a week. Night is really the only time when Boyko can bake and decorate.

"Anything I get done during the day is

a bonus to me. Managing social media and answering messages is a job on its own. There is a whole other element to my business which is the Instagram part. Making connections, contacting other bakers. When I learn of another baker in town, I try to reach out to them because I feel it's supportive.

I work really hard to be home with my kids. I am fortunate that I created a business but I feel guilty all the time because they (her kids) should come first but sometimes the business comes first."

Boyko said while her oldest are in school, she will spend her time doing the behind the scenes work with her youngest, Vienna, in tow by picking up supplies or making deliveries.

As Boyko cuts out what will become personalized elf cookies she said doing what you love is key.

"You have to do what you love because if you hate it, it won't work. For me it's therapeutic and lowers my anxiety and while it's stressful the creativity gives me something back. I couldn't do something I didn't love. It just has to be a passion on some level."

Butter Love Baking cookies can be found at both UpRiver locations, Abbey Gardens or by custom order through Instagram.



Emily Boyko with her children, Luke, Nadia and Vienna. Photo submitted.

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Highlander arts

Video showcases diversity of arts in County

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the Haliburton Highlands Arts Council's new promotional video begins, viewers witness a blend of art and nature: carving in motion, trees and the Rails End Gallery.

"We thought we'd just stay here for a little while and then we realized quite quickly it was a pretty vibrant community. Established artists were here as well as a big resurgence of new artists coming," potter Lisa Barry says near the start of the video, that is filled with testimonials from local artists across the County.

The council released the commissioned video on its Youtube channel Feb. 1. It features interviews with artists talking about the Highlands, with images from last year's studio tours.

Project co-ordinator, Scott Walling, said it was a way to showcase the diversity of arts in Haliburton County.

"Everyone knows about potters and painters and we love them. But there's this whole vast network of other people who should have the spotlight shone on them as well. We wanted to include as many people as we could," Walling said.

The video features a range of different types of arts – including pottery, painting, music, sculpture and drama. It was funded by the Haliburton County Development Corporation and the County of Haliburton.



Tiffany Howe from the new promotional video from the Haliburton Highlands Arts Council. Photo via Haliburton Highlands Arts Council

The production team included Camexicanus and Upside Brown.

Walling said it is difficult to promote tourism during the pandemic. But he added the initiative also gives locals a chance to see more of their community.

"We felt this video kind of allows our artists in the area to get to know each other a little bit more. To see the depths

of everything within Haliburton," Walling said. "But then it also shows out-of-towners this is something they could come do."

"It's to promote both our artists and our members, and Haliburton Highlands, as a whole. It might interest some to come live here and start their art practice here," he added. "We're trying to hit a lot of bases with this."

The project took six months to complete. Walling said he is trying to circulate the video as widely as possible locally.

"Just trying to get it out so everyone can see how much arts and culture and heritage is in Haliburton County."

"Come to Haliburton," potter Wayne Rose says to cap off the video. "We've got it. You can. It's here."

Highlands Summer Festival cancelled for this year

But early stages program may go on

By Lisa Gervais

Organizers of The Highlands Summer Festival have cancelled the 2021 summer theatre season.

In a Feb. 1 press release, they said the cancellation comes amid growing uncertainty about the COVID-19 restrictions that could be in place in July and August.

"It is with reluctance that we make this announcement," president Brian Kipping said. "It is not where we wanted to be following last season's cancellation. Our first concern, however, is for the safety of

our patrons and staff."

Kipping said the lack of predictability of the decline of the pandemic, and where the restrictions on public gatherings might be, leaves the organization with little choice.

However, the shuttering of the traditional season does not mean the popular Haliburton theatre company will be inactive in the coming months.

"We are exploring the possibility of hosting our early stages program," artistic director Scot Denton said. He encouraged the public to watch for announcements closer to the summer.

Early stages is a four-week intensive

theatre education program for young people aged 10 to 14. The participants learn about all facets involved in a theatrical production.

Denton said there are also plans for more online presentations.

"Following on the heels of our very popular 'Memories' video, we have a number of others in the works," Denton said. "I can't show my hand just yet, but keep an eye on our website (highlandsummerfestival.on.ca) for new presentations."

Patrons who have left their tickets with Highlands Summer Festival will have them

honoured for the 2022 season, Kipping said. "We will respect that commitment when we are finally allowed to step back into the theatre and onto the stage."

Kipping also paid tribute to the many people in the community who responded to the company's donation request a month ago.

"Even though there have been no performances, we have ongoing expenses and these donations help to keep the Highlands Summer Festival alive and ready to go when conditions allow. Thank you for your support."

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Proverbs 3:27



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Highlander community

Connecting through a community cookbook

By Joseph Quigley

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the pandemic separating people, the Central Food Network is planning to share communal recipes with a cookbook fundraiser.

The charity launched the initiative Jan. 25, calling for recipe submissions of any type. It will later place the entries into a book that will be sold in the area.

Central Food Network acting director, Tina Jackson, said the proceeds will go towards the community cook program, which is making free prepared meals.

"I hope that this is a fun way for people to get involved and look back through family recipes," Jackson said. "And to be able to feel connected to the rest of us, even when we're all in our own houses and trying to stay safe. I hope it ends in a sense of community."

Volunteer Gail Gotter came up with the idea. She said the food bank is always looking for more funding and this seemed like a good way to offer that.

"We just hope that it's all-inclusive with people in the community – and even outside the community," Gotter said. "Who can share some of their tried-and-true recipes."

Jackson said they have put some

traditional fundraisers on hold due to the pandemic. But she added donations are going strong.

"Just completely floored by the support we have received, which has meant we have been able to ramp up and respond to the increases in the need for food," Jackson said.

The demand in the summer, as well as their Christmas hampers, were 10 per cent higher compared to 2019 last year, Jackson said. She added there was a lull in demand after the holidays, but there has been a noticeable increase at Highlands East food banks in the past two weeks.

"What I'm hearing is a lot of people that have been laid off in this specific lockdown and are in the midst of waiting for EI (employment insurance)," Jackson said.

Jackson said she hopes individuals, groups and businesses can participate.

"A great way to bring the community together in a safe way," she said.

"Everybody's doing a little bit more cooking, a little bit more baking and it's a great way for people to dust off those recipes."

To submit or ask questions, contact recipes@centralfoodnetwork.org or call 705-448-228.



The Central Food Network is fundraising with a community cookbook. *File photo.*

FROM OUR READERS



Brenda-Lee Cunningham captured this image of a squirrel in Algonquin Highlands. Rob Kleyson shared this photo of a yellow spotted salamander on Gull Lake. *Photos submitted.*

What's on



ON FROZEN POND ... Karen and Darin Thompson skate at the Stanhope rink in Algonquin Highlands Feb. 2. Outdoor rinks remain open in Haliburton, Stanhope and Dorset. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

WHAT'S ON

Tuesday, Feb. 9

7:30 pm Environment Haliburton! will host an online Enviro-Café on blue-green algae. The presenter will be Dr. Elizabeth Favot, who resides in Haliburton and recently defended her PhD thesis in blue-green algae. Q & A session to follow. Go to environmenthaliburton.org to register.

February

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust presents Land Trust Discovery Days online. My Backyard, Learn about Animal Tracks and Signs, and share your observations. Check the HHLT website for cool booklets, animal tracks examples and more. (haliburtonlandtrust.ca) Share your own findings on the Land Trust's Facebook page "My Backyard" event. Each week, reply to their post to share your photos or observations.

Have fun exploring your backyard. The Land Trust looks forward to seeing your photos. This event continues through February. Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for partial funding.

BUSINESS ADVISORIES | COVID-19 LOCAL BUSINESS ADJUSTMENTS & CLOSURES

Transat Travel – Operating remotely, contact by email: linda.coneybeare@transat.com or call 705-457-3290.

Cordell Carpet – Open for curb-side pickup. Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Email cordellcarpet@bellnet.ca or call 705-457-2022 or cordellcarpet.ca.

Algonquin Outfitters – Full details of operations can be found at algonquinoutfitters.com/covid-19-dec-28-2020 and for Haliburton store at algonquinoutfitters.com/store-location/haliburton. Offering curbside pickup and rentals as well as online sales at algonquinoutfitters.com or call 1-705-457-3737 for local service.

Outdoors Plus – Open but can only have one person in the store at a time. Currently keeping regular hours Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This can change quickly, call store to make sure we are available. 705-457-3113.

Tim Hortons – Minden and Haliburton are open for drive-thru and walk-in take out. 12597 Highway 35, Minden & 5003 CR 21, Haliburton.

Buckley Electric – Open. Serving Haliburton County. Call 705-286-1134 or email info@buckleyelectric.com.

Abbey Gardens Food Hub – In-store shopping available. Call/shop on-line for curbside pick-up. Wednesday to Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 705-754-4769 or abbeygardens.ca/shop-online.

Minden Hills Rent-All – Open by appointment for sales and service of Stihl and Cub Cadet products. Also the renting of equipment and party products. Call 705-286-3047.

Kubota North – Open with curbside pick up and drop off. Call 705-645-1175.

The Pregnancy Care & Family Support Centre – Remains available to our clients, using text/telephone 705-457-4673 and email hope@haliburtonpregnancycentre.ca.

John Fountain Electronics – Hours of operation, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. / half hour those mornings for curb-side pickup.

Up River Trading Co. – uprivertrading.com is open for business and we're doing curbside pickup in Minden and

Haliburton on request. Call us at 705-286-1015. Our cafe remains closed during lockdown.

The Haliburton Real Estate Team – In Business as (UN)Usual. We're here to help you buy or sell. Call Linda at 705-457-6508.

County Automotive – Open by appointment only. The office is closed to customers at this time. Drop off your vehicle only. Call 705-457-1411 or countyautomotive@hotmail.com.

Parker Pad & Printing – Open 8.30 a.m.– 3.30 p.m, Monday-Friday. We can process all orders via phone, email and digital upload. Drop off/pick up location in front vestibule. 705-457-2458 or tracy.stoughton@parkerpad.com.

Fleming CREW Employment Services – All in-person services suspended until further notice. Offering appointments virtually and by phone. Please call, email or visit website to book appointment. 705-457-2020 or flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca or www.flemingcrew@flemingcollege.ca.

Taylor Carpet One – Huntsville – Our showroom is closed but we are still open for curbside, Mon to Sat 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call 705-789-9259 or visit taylorcarpetonehuntsville.com.

Country Rose Flowers & Garden – Accepting prepaid orders by phone for pickup or delivery. Open Mon-Sat 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 13513 Hwy 118 W Haliburton, ON 705-457-3774.

Lakeview Motel – Open, however business not as usual and we are accepting essential workers only. Call 705-457-1027 for information.

Riverview Furniture – Open offering curbside and delivery. Call or email 705-286-3167 or info@riverview-furniture.com

Wintergreen Maple – Open by chance or appointment (curbside) anytime your schedule allows. Call 705-286-3202.

Subway Minden & Subway Haliburton – Open 7 days from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for takeout and remote order pickup only.

Glass Eagle Studios on Blairhampton Road – During the lockdown we will be open to sell our honey. Call Tom at 705-286-3628.

Contact North – Haliburton – Take advantage of online workplace and skills training, high school, post-secondary

programming with support from Contact North in Haliburton. Help available at 1-855-867-9528 or www.studyonline.ca.

WRD Cottage Rental Agency – Still taking bookings and accepting cottage rentals for this 2021 Summer season. Call 705-457-9434.

Walkers Heating & Cooling – Open for 24/7 emergency service. Office closed to the public but we can be reached by calling 705-457-2375 or by emailing info@walkershvac.com.

John Francis Fuels – We continue to provide essential services but our office is closed. Contact us at 705-286-2738 or office@johnfrancisfuels.ca.

Studio Rose – Open. Our website has many things for pick up or shipping. Call 705-286-3383 or 705-754-5099 or at studiorosepottery.com.

Troy Optical – Open, please call for appointment. 705-286-0727 or troyoptical.com.

Highlands Storage – Available. Call 705-489-3925 or email info@highlands-storage.com for on-site office's business hours.

The Parish & Strano Real Estate Team – Open. Call 705-457-5485 for a no charge property evaluation.

Lockside Trading Company – Online shopping, curbside pick-up, delivery. Youngs Point & Haliburton open Mon-Sat. Contact lockside.com or shop@lockside.com or 1-888-714-0484.

Highlands Printing and Publishing – Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Email mountainside_farm@hotmail.com or call 705-489-2036. Not open for walk-ins.

Algonquin Cookhouse – Open takeout only, Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays. Harcourt, E Trail, 705-448-8868. Find us on Facebook.

Delancey Sports – Open Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Curbside, online and delivery options. Call 705-455-9938, email info@delanceysports.com or visit delanceysports.com.

Wind in the Willows Spa & Boutique – Open – curbside pick-up Tuesday-Saturday. On-line shopping at haliburton-spa.com.

If you have updates on business hours and operations, please email them to admin@thehighlander.ca. They will be posted free of charge in the paper and online. To save space, please keep messages to 25 words. If you would like to place a larger ad to let people know you are open (or closed), please email sales@thehighlander.ca.

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
HEALTH SERVICES

Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has a need for Temporary Full-Time and Temporary Part-Time staff for the noted classifications below.

RN's and RPN's are expected to be available for both Minden and Haliburton Hospital locations. In addition, opportunities are available in our two Long Term Care facilities, Hyland Wood and Hyland Crest. The Registered Nurse earns \$33.56 /hr - \$48.05/hr and is responsible for providing comprehensive care to patients, with predictable and unpredictable outcomes who may or may not be clinically stable. The successful candidate will possess a diploma/degree in Nursing and a current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario. Two years of acute care practice is required; previous emergency department or specialty department experience of 1 year or more is preferred. Recent experience is preferred.

Registered Practical Nurses earn \$30.58 - \$31.17/hr and provide client care in accordance with the Professional Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario. She or he, as a member of the health care team, has a significant role in promoting health, preventing illness, and helping clients attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a client's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. RPN's must have a diploma in Nursing, a Current Certificate of Competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario, current BCLS. Must have a demonstrated knowledge of RPN scope of practice, excellent organization and prioritization skills and an ability to fully communicate in English.

Personnel Support Workers earn \$22.25- \$24.85/hr and provide resident care in relation to activities of daily living. PSW's help residents attain and maintain the highest level of health possible in situations in which a resident's condition is relatively stable, less complex and the outcomes of care are predictable. Successful completion of Personal Support Worker program which meets one of the following:

- The vocational standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities,
- The standards established by the National Association of Career Colleges, or
- The standards established by the Ontario Community Support Association; and
- Must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration, counting both class time and practical experience.

The **Caregiver Support Aide** earns \$18.50/hr. S/he provides support to our PSW's in relation to specific activities of resident and patient daily living, quality of life, environment management and continuous communication. Assists our PSW's with dressing, meal service and nourishment, assists with personal grooming, changing linens etc. Registered graduate of grade 12 or equivalent maturity and experience, with a willingness to register in a PSW certificate program and complete it within three years.

Observers/screeners earn \$14.50/hr and work on an as needed basis in 4 hour, 8 hour, or 12 hour shifts depending on Patient/Resident needs. The Observer is an unregulated health care provider who is primarily responsible for the close observation of patients whose behavior poses a risk to his/her safety or the safety of others. The Patients/Residents you are observing are often elderly people who are living with dementia or other conditions that impact their memory and judgment. As a Screener, you act as a greeter and screener at facility entrances in Minden and Haliburton locations, to ensure anyone who enters is well. Minimum Grade 11, or equivalent, from the Ministry of Education (Ontario) with a demonstrated working knowledge of spoken and written English and experience working in a health care setting, security, related social service, or educational field will be an asset.

There may be many who have worked related fields and training on site will provide the basics you require for a temporary role.

Interested: Submit your application and resume to:

Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca • Fax: 705-457-4609

Camp White Pine is seeking Cleaning and Maintenance Staff. Up to 5 months of work available, May-September. Earn up to \$25/hour. Email info@campwhitepine.com or call 416-322-6250



Haliburton County Council is seeking members of the public to join the HALIBURTON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

The County of Haliburton benefits from the involvement of local residents who help County Council make decisions about the programs and services provided to our citizens. Applicants for this position must be:

- At least 18 years old
- A Canadian Citizen
- A resident of Haliburton County

You can find the detailed posting along with application instructions on our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers

If you require assistance with the application process please contact Andrea Bull, Human Resources Manager at 705-286-1333 or at abull@county.haliburton.on.ca. The application process will close on February 15, 2021.



Leaders in Innovative Rural Health Care

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has an exciting, permanent opportunity available as a member of the Long Term Care home teams that serve a substantial area surrounding both Haliburton and Minden. HHHS includes LTC homes in both Minden (Hyland Crest) and Haliburton (Hyland Wood).

This casual physiotherapist will report to and work in collaboration with the LTC home, Directors of Care. The Physiotherapist helps our residents reach optimal function by developing, implementing and supporting established treatment programs. He supervises our Physiotherapy Aides and provides oversight to them, providing guidance and counseling on therapeutic issues. Changes or progressions in treatment are made based on ongoing assessments and evaluation.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The successful candidate will possess a degree/diploma in Physiotherapy and be registered with the Board of Directors of Physiotherapy to practice in Ontario. The preferred candidate will have working knowledge of rehabilitation, orthopedics, and neurology. Membership in the Canadian Physiotherapy Association is recommended. Current CPR certification is also a requirement. Two to four years of experience in Long Term Care and/or Acute Care settings is preferred.

SUBMIT APPLICATION AND RESUME TO:

Human Resources
Haliburton Highlands Health Services
Box 115, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca
Fax: 705-457-4609

PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER: 2021 - 05

Haliburton Highlands Health Services thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are contacted by HHHS regarding a job opportunity or testing, please advise if you require accommodation. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation is looking for a PERMANENT PART-TIME MAINTENANCE PERSON.

Must be available for on call and weekends.

Applications due by February 12, 2021.

For more information and to submit your resume including referrals send to HCHC, 1 Victoria St., Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 or email to manager@haliburtonhousing.com



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - SOUS CHEF

We are currently seeking a Sous Chef to be an integral part of the on-site staff team in the Food Hub. This role will include a wide range of tasks in our commercial kitchen including; working at the lunch counter, preparing food, baking, canning soups, making preserves, providing customer service, catering, etc.

This is a full time, year round position, working directly with the Chef.

For full job description please go to <https://abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs>.

Applications can be submitted via email to heather@abbeygardens.ca

Deadline for applications: Feb.15, 2021

Highlander classifieds

IN MEMORY

In Memory of **BILL TIMMS**

Who passed away February 6, 2020

God looked around his garden
and found an empty space.

He then looked upon the earth
and saw your tired face.

He put his arm around you
and lifted you to rest.

God's garden must be beautiful
for he only takes the best.

*Fondly remembered and greatly missed by his
wife Elva Timms and family.*

Eileen Shepstone

*The family of our late mother and
grandmother, Eileen Shepstone,
would like to thank everyone who
offered condolences and gave
donations in her name. Thank you
to Highland Woods for everything
you did for mother.*

OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of

Dusty Sutherland

Passed away peacefully at Haliburton Hospital on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at the age of 97.

Beloved husband of Phyllis (nee Arbuthnot). Loving father of Terry Sutherland, Sandy Sutherland (Ann). Loving stepfather of Glen Baker (Tammy), Carolyn Baker-Chisholm (Frank), Winnifred Danilko (Ricky), and Stan Baker (Marilyn). Dear grandfather

to 20 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Predeceased by his sister Toots McDonald. Fondly remembered by family and friends.

A service to celebrate Dusty's life will take place at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highland Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

IN MEMORY



In memory of **HOLT, Barbara Della** (nee Fountain) who passed away in Minden around Thanksgiving - October 12, 2020.

The daughter of the late Dorothy and Farley Fountain. Predeceased by her husband Lionel (2018) and three brothers: Harry, Joseph and Fred Fountain.

She is survived by her sister Myrna Lyons (Bill) of Toronto. Mother of five children: Dale (deceased), Emmy Johnson (Bill), Harry, Richard (deceased) and Barb Wilson (Rick). Grandmother of eight: Neil (deceased), Melissa, Erik, Erin, Sabrina, Clayton, Jory and Jessica. Great grandmother of fifteen: Ayva (deceased), Emily, Angela, Darren, Jenna, Nathan, Lucas, Lily, Valerie, Mason, Hunter, Sadie, Breydon, Isabella and Stephen. She has twelve nieces and nephews and their many offspring.

Born in Midland, Ontario on April 21, 1939, Barb was in her 82nd year. Cremation has taken place and her ashes scattered. No service was held as per her wishes.

Memorial Donations to the Alzheimer Society or to GAINS (part of the Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services) would be appreciated by the family.

LAWYER

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Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public

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fax: 705.457.1462

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PHOTO CONTEST

The Highlander is looking for your best photos for inclusion in next year's The Highlander Handbook.

We are looking for pictures that show the best the Highlands has to offer in all of its seasons. The best submission will be printed on next year's cover and others inside. We are looking for good quality, high resolution photos (JPEG, 300 dpi).

Please limit 3 entries per person. Deadline April 19, 2021 – by 5 p.m. Please ensure the photographer's name and contact details are in the email. Send entries to editor@thehighlander.ca

HAVE AN OPINION? Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

Highlander classifieds

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SOLUTIONS FOR FEB 4

1	C	2	H	3	E	4	R		5	M	6	I	7	L	8	L	9	E		10	T	11	E	12	A	13	S
14	F		I	X	E				15	S	T	E	E	L		16	D	R	U	M	S						
17	L	E	A	S					18	W	I	N	G	B	E	A	R	E	R								
				19	S	A	20	V						21	D	O	O	R			22	O	N	S			
23	M		A	P	L	E		L	E	A	F	W	A		27	G											
28	V		I	E	T	N	A	M						29	S	T	E	R		30		31	N				
32	I	R	R					33	T	R	A		34	S		35	H				36	L	A	U			
				37	W	A	V		38	I	N	G		L	U	N		39	A	T	I	C					
				41	A	T	O							42	S	O	B	A	D			43	N	L	E		
				45	R	E	I	K	I								48	B	R	A		49	I	D	E	R	
								50	R	U	N	A	W		51	A	Y	T	W	A	I	N					
53	O	R	C					56	G	O	S	H								57	E	A	N				
58	G	A	R	D	E	N	W	A		60	K	E								62	N	C	O		63	S	
65	R	E	T	A	L	I	A	T	E	D										66	N	E	A	T			
67	F	S	C	S				68	T	S	A	R	S								69	A	S	K	S		

Highlander puzzles

Be Fuddled

by Barbara Olson

© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

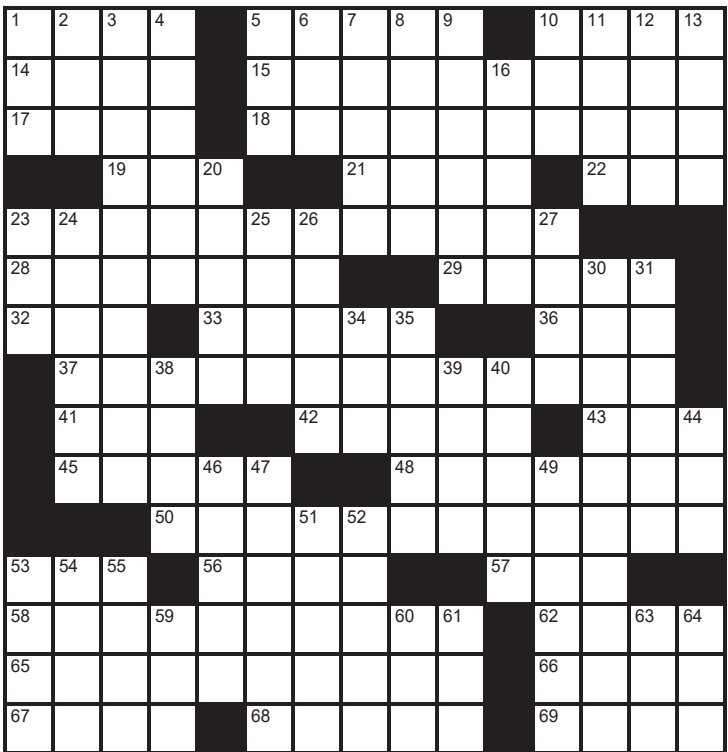
Across

- 1 Sonny's honey, once
- 5 "Dix" x "cent"
- 10 High times in England?
- 14 Idée ____ (obsession)
- 15 Caribbean percussion instruments
- 17 Meadows
- 18 One holding a chicken appy?
- 19 Type of bank acct.
- 21 What a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of, per Ogden Nash
- 22 Carry-____ (hand luggage)
- 23 Scott Joplin tune for happy puppies?
- 28 Hanoi's country
- 29 Admiral's rear
- 32 Rule-breaking, as some verbs: Abbr.
- 33 Folder for unwanted email
- 36 Vancouver poet laureate Evelyn ____
- 37 Hand-flapping nut job?
- 41 Go from ____ B
- 42 "It's not ____" ("I can hack it")
- 43 Montreal Expos div., once
- 45 Hands-on Japanese healing
- 48 Hair stylist for an Anne Shirley portrayer
- 50 Shania on the lam?
- 53 "The Lord of the Rings" beast
- 56 "Well, jeepers"
- 57 Suffix with Caesar
- 58 Vigil for the dead in a vegetable patch?
- 62 Armed Forces Sgt. and Cpl.
- 65 Got even with
- 66 "Keen!"
- 67 Keys not found on typewriters
- 68 Rulers before Lenin
- 69 Doesn't just wonder about

Down

- 1 Org. for Lions and Tiger-Cats
- 2 Hotfoot it, old-style
- 3 Frustrate to no end
- 4 Add another dash to the dish

- 5 Counsellor's deg.
- 6 "Lord, is ____?" (Last Supper question)
- 7 Assist, before "hand"
- 8 ____ lamb (meat order)
- 9 Rib prodders
- 10 Singer's syllable
- 11 Its symbol is €
- 12 "You got that right!"
- 13 Rus. regions on pre-'90s maps
- 16 Do an exterminator's job
- 20 Starbucks 20-ouncer
- 23 Brutus's 1006
- 24 Combat for ace Billy Bishop, e.g.
- 25 Git through yer head
- 26 Digital publications
- 27 Yiddish moola
- 30 Native American rituals to end droughts
- 31 Cells' centres
- 34 ____-pitch softball
- 35 ____ Bubba bubble gum
- 38 What "les yeux" do
- 39 None, with "a one"
- 40 "It's ____" ("See you then")
- 44 Seaside soarer
- 46 Baked pudding, in Jewish cuisine
- 47 A party to the con job
- 49 Start to a bratty request
- 51 ____ the custom (traditionally)
- 52 "____ maroon!" (Bugs Bunny comment about the hunter parodied in this puzzle)
- 53 Tyrannical boss
- 54 Former politician Bob, and others
- 55 Broadcast media watchdog: Abbr.
- 59 Word preceding "Boot" or "Kapital"
- 60 Flooey lead-in
- 61 Magazine masthead figs.
- 63 Yellow-ribbon tree of song
- 64 Peter, Paul and Mary titles: Abbr.



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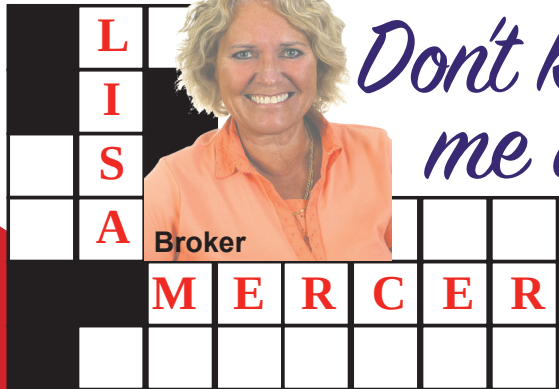
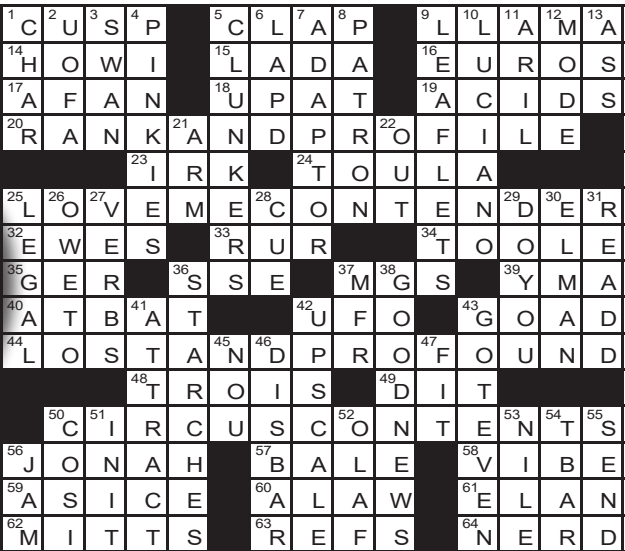
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2	8			6			4	
	6			4	1	2		3
4			5					
7	1							
6		5		8		3		9
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9		4	6	7			8	
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

7	1	8	5	9	3	2	6	4
4	3	5	1	2	6	9	7	8
6	2	9	4	8	7	5	3	1
2	8	7	9	1	5	3	4	6
5	9	4	3	6	8	1	2	7
3	6	1	2	7	4	8	5	9
9	4	6	8	5	2	7	1	3
8	7	2	6	3	1	4	9	5
1	5	3	7	4	9	6	8	2



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